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Hit case suspect free on bond

He is investigated for allegedly ordering death of a prosecutor

Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News

Detroit -- A man under investigation for allegedly ordering a hit on an assistant Wayne County prosecutor is free on \$10,000 unsecured bond on a related witness intimidation charge.

U.S. District Judge R. Steven Whalen allowed Sabastian Restum, 40, out of the Wayne County Jail but put him on house arrest with a GPS tether and bond as the case proceeds.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Leonid Feller said the move was appropriate.

"We continue to investigate other matters related to Mr. Restum," Feller said after a Friday hearing in which the bond was set.

Federal prosecutors allege that Restum ordered the hit on Assistant Prosecutor Abed Hammoud in March. Restum is under investigation in connection with a probe into a 2007 mortgage fraud case that affected loans totaling more than \$10 million.

Authorities allege Restum threatened Ali Haraji, who worked for Restum, if he did not kill Hammoud. Haraji and Hammoud are from the same village in Lebanon, Restum told Haraji, according to a federal affidavit.

"You better be careful or I'll make your children fatherless," Restum said as he pointed at Haraji's wife, according to the affidavit.

The alleged hit was to occur the next time Hammoud was in Lebanon.

The investigation is being run by federal authorities and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Restum has not been charged with ordering the hit. His attorney, Steven Fishman, said Restum and his family are happy he received the bond.

"Most people would prefer to be home than in jail," Fishman said.